

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

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YOUTH LEADERS CONFERENCE PROPOSES 3 YEAR PLAN

Concluding that a study curriculum for youth leaders' training and a study of the social, psychological and economic backgrounds of today's young people were most urgently needed, the Youth Leaders Training Conference requested the NCC to set up a special study commission for research on these matters. The Commission will operate on a 3 year plan: first year: prepare the study curriculum; second year: research into background factors; third year: implementing a program based on the results of the first 2 years.

The conferences were held on April 20-22 at Itsukaichi, on April 26-28 at Hiracka, Nara, and were attended by 35 to 40 members of NCC groups, and others interested in Youth work such as the Salvation Army, Free Methodists, and various Christian schools.

Miss Emily Crane, Methodist Youth Leader now traveling through Asia reported on Youth movements in other Asian countries and in the U.S. The Youth workers discussed at length the problem of planning for young people in the Japanese churches, and ways in the young people can be drawn into the church life after they exhibit an initial interest in the church.

LUTHERANS HOLD ANNUAL MEETING, DISCUSS LUTHERAN UNITY IN JAPAN

At its annual meeting May 4-6 the Japan Evangelic Lutheran Church created a commission to draw up a plan for union acceptable to the church and present the plan to the 11 Lutheran missions now working in Japan. The plan was presented on May 12 to at a meeting of the commission with the representatives of all the Lutheran Missions in the All Lutheran Free Conference. The proposed plan would call for a united church organized on a district basis. It would provide maximum freedom for missionary activity within the districts, but matters of ordination, appointment, budget etc. would be handled by the united church. Members of the commission working on the plan are Rev. Yukichi Makise, Rev. Hajime Inatomi, Rev. Kiyoshi Hirai, Rev. Shiro Aoyama, Rev. Nobutaka Kashiwagi, Rev. Atsumi Tasaka. The plan is now under study by the missions involved.

The annual meeting was attended by about 150 ministers and representative laymen. Dr. Earl Erb, and Miss Helen Shirk respectively Executive Secretary and Japan Secretary of the Board of Foreign Missions of the United Lutheran Church in the U.S. were present at the meeting.

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The new president of the Japan Evangelical Lutheran Church is the Rev. Yukichi Makise, and the vice-president is the Rev. Howard Allsdorf. The Rev. Makoto Tsuboike is the new secretary.

KYODAN COC HOLDS BI ENNIAL MEETING

The Council of Cooperation of the Kyodan held its Bi Ennial General meeting on April 20-21 in Tokyo. The meeting prepared estimates for 1955 budget, and passed a proposal to appeal for endowed chairs in the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and if possible in other Kyodan related seminaries. A request for \$4,500 to make possible the training of Christian teachers for rural day nursery schools at the central rural training institution at Hino was approved.

Self-support and foreign aid in the Kyodan and Christian Schools was another problem discussed. It was pointed out that though the amount of foreign aid requested by the Kyodan has increased each year, the proportion of foreign aid in the total budget has dropped since 1950, due to a great increase in domestic giving. The problem of Christian schools is especially acute due to the fact the government universities are providing stiff competition, and at the same time the Christian schools have been forced to increase students and fees to make up for a decrease in aid from abroad. The COC pointed out the danger of misunderstanding the assertion that Japanese evangelization should be carried out by Japanese without foreign cooperation. This would not be in accord with the principal of world evangelization. Rather, Japan should in the future also engage in overseas evangelism. On the other hand, cooperative funds from overseas must not have a nationalistic color, since the spiritual cooperation must be above international political relations.

In conclusion the COC reaffirmed the belief that the ideal form of evangelization of Japan is one in which the self-supporting Japanese church correlated with financial cooperation from overseas forms one link in the chain of world evangelism. The Japanese church must realize the responsibility that devolves on them as receivers of foreign aid, and must guard against taking such aid for granted and becoming, even unconsciously, a dependent church.

TACHIKAWA CHURCH DEDICATED

The Tachikawa Kyodan Church was dedicated Sunday May 9. The main room of the church will serve a social room for US soldiers on free time. It will be the second Christian Service center in Japan.

TOYO EIWA DEDICATES NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL BUILDING

Toyo Eiwa, one of the leading Christian girl's schools in Tokyo since its founding by the United Church of Canada 17 years ago, dedicated a new primary school building on May 7. The building will provide space for 500 pupils in grades 1-6. President Ichimada of the Bank of Japan, who headed the fund raising campaign for the new building, delivered the congratulatory address.

ICU DEDICATES NEW CHAPEL

The International Christian University held a service of dedication for its new chapel on Sunday May 9 at 3 pm. The service was attended by members of the church, representatives of the participating denominations in the Japan ICU Foundation and officials of the University.

The present building is the first of 3 units which will eventually be constructed. The completed chapel will seat 1100, and cover an area of 590 tsubo. The first unit has a seating capacity of 700, and an area of 217 tsubo. The second and third units will be a 9 story tower with classrooms, organ chamber and chimes, and an addition to the nave and the chancel.

Financing the chapel is the project of an interdenominational group in the State of Iowa, of which Mr. Owen Crist, a Des Moines banker, is chairman, Mrs. Bert Stolpe a Des Moines business man has been one of the leaders in raising funds for the chapel. The cost of Section "A" has been \$100,000, and the remaining 2 units will cost an additional \$150,000.

In his response to the congratulatory message from the ICU foundation, Dr. Yuasa characterize the ICU church as one which is "fully sensitive to academic freedom and at the same time deeply conscious of its responsibility as the religious unit of ICU". Since the natural function of the church is evangelism, it needs no apology for these efforts, and serves as a complement to the university program, which although permeated with the spirit and values of Christian truth must respect the principles of religious freedom in its academic program, Dr. Yuasa said.

The message from the Japan ICU Foundation was given by Dr. T.T. Brumbaugh, and the sermon was preached by Dr. Emil Brunner.

BIBLE SOCIETY DISTRIBUTES A MILLION AND A HALF BIBLES

The Bible Society reports the distribution of 1,567,389 bibles in 20 languages during the past year in Japan. A breakdown showed 47,750 old Testaments, 327,589 new Testaments and 1,195,169 Individual Gospels. There were 3,961 Braille bibles distributed.

DR. BRUMBAUGH IN JAPAN

En route to Korea, Dr. T.T. Brumbaugh, Japan-Korea-Philippines Secretary for the Division of World Missions of the Methodist Church, conferred with NCC leaders concerning the effects of H Bomb tests, the problem of Japanese war crimes prisoners still in Sugamo prison and "G.I." babies. He reported that there are encouraging reports of rising interest in the US in providing Christian service centers for US service men in Japan, Okinawa, and Korea. While in Tokyo, Dr. Brumbaugh participated in the dedication of the new chapel at ICU.

CHRISTIAN EMIGRANTS WANTED FOR BRAZIL

A Christian village composed of emigrants from Japan is the goal of Rev. Midori Kobayashi of San Paulo, Brazil. Rev. Kobayashi has offered 500 chobu (about 3,000 tsubo) of land to Japanese Christians who will emigrate to San Paulo as farmers. Rev. Kobayashi made his offer through the Kyodan, which has had a commission studying emigration as one of the possible solutions to the population problem in Japan. He is a graduate of Doshisha Seminary, and has been in Brazil for 30 years.

30 young people a year will be selected to take advantage of this opportunity, according to present Kyodan plans. A training institute will be set up at the National Rural Training Center at Hino to give special preparation to the candidates who will be selected from applicants.

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at the Rural Gospel Schools which are held during the winter months.

PHILIPPINE GOODWILL TEAM IN JAPAN

Four young people from the United Church in the Philippines are in Japan for a month on a Goodwill Visit to the churches here. They arrived on May 13 and will meet groups from Tokyo to Osaka til May 24, when they will divide into two teams going to different areas until June 8. The period from June 8 til their departure on June 13 is still somewhat free. They will be accompanied on their trips by interpreters.

The four "missionaries" coming in a return gesture for the 4 Japanese Christian students who attended a Philippine Work camp hope by their efforts to further the understanding and friendship between Japan and the Philippines. They were chosen by the Youth Emphasis Committee of the United Church of the Philippines.

They are: Miss L.S. Asuncion, a worker at the Christian center at the College Los Banos Laguna. Miss Asuncion led the Bible Study at Montinglupa Prison for incarcerated Japanese war prisoners. Miss Priscilla Maydamo, who will receive her BA in music from Silliman University in 1955. Miss Maydamo received a BS in Biology last year and teaches music at Silliman part time. She is an **accomplished vocalist**. Mr. D. Aguila, a young business layman from a large Philippine firm. Mr. Dario Alampay, just graduated from Union Theological Seminary in Manila, who will be ordained on his return to the Philippines.

JICSC CARRIES ON MINISTRY OF MATERIAL AND SPIRITUAL AID

Disaster and famine relief, rehabilitation of the handicapped, refugee relief, Heifer Projects Inc. and other similar projects involving aid to the suffering and needy are carried on in Japan and by the Japan International Christian Service Committee the representative agency of Church World Service and the World Council of Churches Department, **Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees**. In 1953, the JICSC distributed **366,042** pounds of relief clothing, 621 pounds of soap and 113,000 pounds of powdered skim milk, in addition dispersing \$10,822 worth of goods for special flood relief in Kyushu and Wakayama.

Relief goods are at present distributed mainly through the CAC committee (composed of JICSC, American Friends Service Com., & Catholic Welfare) which meets with representatives from the Japanese National Dept. of Social Welfare. This joint committee allocates goods requested by local prefectures on a basis of need. The local prefectures or institutions receiving the goods pay for the ocean freight, and internal warehousing and shipping charges on the goods they receive. The Japanese government charges no duty on these goods, and full credit is given to the donating Christian organizations, although they are distributed without regard to religion or creed. A certain percentage of relief goods are also distributed directly to Christian churches and institutions.

Integration of the JICSC with the NCC as the Department of Christian Service of the NCC has been approved in principle, and negotiations are in process between the NCC Executive Committee and the JICSC to work out the details of the merger. In the meantime, the JICSC will act as the relief agency of the NCC.

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In its relief work, the JICSC is carrying on the work which CWS formerly did through LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia). LARA was disbanded in 1952 after a successful 6 years of administering to the desperate needs of the immediate postwar era. Every effort has been made to make the JICSC an organ of the Christian Churches and social service groups with representatives from the NCC, National Council of Social Welfare, and missionaries from denominations contributing to CWS on the Committee.

JICSC, in addition to carrying on this relief work, has expanded its activities and is undertaking a program of "Rehabilitation Aid for the Physically Handicapped," under the direction of Mr. Shiro Abe. Aiming to make industrial and war cripples self-respecting and self-supporting, the program provides for grants to Christian institutions for the purchase of needed equipment, arranging for apprenticeships with tradesmen, translations of the best books and magazines dealing with rehabilitating the physically handicapped and distribution of this literature through a lending library. In addition they distribute visual aids, and organize Christian comfort missions to counsel with cripples in institutions.

Refugee aid and relief is another new aspect of the JICSC's program. In this capacity, the JICSC acts as the Japan representative of the World Council of Churches Dept. of Interchurch Aid and Service to Refugees in Geneva. They carry on negotiations with the Japanese government for the entry into Japan of stateless refugees who have friends or relatives here and assist the refugees in getting settled after they arrive here. Emigration from Japan is also one of their projects, and the JICSC is now working with the Kyodan Emigration Commission on the prospect of assisting Japanese to emigrate to Brazil and other places in South America.

The Heifer Projects Inc. have recently sent Dr. O. Walter Wagner from the St. Louis Church Federation to organize a Heifer Projects Commission in Japan. This Commission will operate as an independent committee within the JICSC organization. Dr. Toyohiko Kagawa is honorary chairman of the Committee, with Dr. David E. Lindstrom of ICU as chairman, and the JICSC directors and treasurer also serve the Heifer Committee. The purpose of the Heifer Committee is to carry on rehabilitation in Japan and other Asian countries through replenishing the stores of animals which have good value such as cows, pigs, and goats.

The officers of the JICSC are the Rev. Y. Manabe, chairman (replacing Dr. Carl D. Kriete who is retiring), the Rev. Hallam C. Shorrock, Jr., Director; the Rev. Kentaro Buma, associate Director, and Mr. John F. Fairfield, Treasurer. The new offices of the JICSC are in the Kyobunkwan Building, Room 41, 2, 4 Chome, Ginza, Chuo-ku, Tokyo, Japan.
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